



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Pleads Guilty to Assault with a Dangerous Weapon -Defendant Pulled a Loaded Gun During Argument With His Brother -

WASHINGTON – Nathaniel Patten, 18, of Washington, D.C., has pled guilty to a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon stemming from an incident that took place earlier this year during an argument at his mother's home, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Patten pled guilty on June 30, 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The Honorable Ann O'Regan Keary scheduled sentencing for September 1, 2011. Under the court's voluntary sentencing guidelines, he could face up to five years in prison.

According to the government's evidence, the incident took place on January 13, 2011, at the home of Patten's mother, in the 5000 block of Ivory Walter Lane SE. Patten went there about 8:50 a.m. that day, and his mother, who lived at the address with his older brother, reluctantly let him inside. He and his mother then got into an argument when he refused to take his boots off while inside her house. At some point, Patten's brother awoke from his sleep and approached his mother and the defendant to see what was happening. Patten and his brother then began to argue, and during the argument, Patten pulled out a loaded gun and pointed it at his brother.

Patten's mother ran out of the house, terrified, to alert police. Thinking that she heard the gun go off, she proceeded to make a frantic, emotional call to 911 for help.

When the police arrived, Patten and his brother could be heard arguing inside the house, but they would not come outdoors. The Metropolitan Police Department's Emergency Response Team (ERT) set up a perimeter around the house, and employed hostage negotiators to convince the defendant and his brother to come outside. Eventually, they emerged.

Police then entered the house and found the handgun underneath a sofa in the basement.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Detectives Robert Cephas, Chad Howard, and Peter Shaw, Officers Stephen Chih, Vincent Dunbar, Charles Garrett,

and James Johnson of the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Sixth District, and Dorian Desantis and Gregory Robinson of the MPD Special Operations Division, who were involved in the arrest and investigation of this case. U.S. Attorney Machen also expressed his appreciation to Paralegal Lamine Hendrix and Legal Assistant Charmonique Price, who assisted in the preparation of the case for indictment, and trial, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Tona Boyd, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mervin A. Bourne, Jr. who assisted Assistant U.S. Attorney Mona Sahaf in preparing the case for trial after she investigated and indicted the case.

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